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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4941

Control: 29267
Aug. 31, 1966, 10:27 AM

AUGUST 31

CG III MAF PASS AMCONSUL DANANG 126 FOR POLAD FRANCIS

1. [redacted] TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 31 HE BELIEVED OVER 70PERCENT OF SAIGON'S REGISTERED VOTERS WOULD GO TO POLLS, DESPITE BOYCOTT EFFORTS BY VIET CONG AND BUDDHIST INSTITUTE. HE SAID HE WAS BASING HIS OPINION UPON PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF CITY PLUS PUBLIC OPINION SAMPLING MADE IN MID-AUGUST BY INFORMATION SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO SAIGON. SAMPLING WAS REPORTED BY INFORMATION CHIEF TO BE BASED ON SOME 34,000 PERSONAL INTERVIEWS, OF WHOM 72PERCENT SAID THEY WERE INTER-

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ESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN ELECTIONS; 22PERCENT SAID THEY WER NOT INTERESTED; AND 6PERCENT CLAIMED TO BE OPPOSED. EXAMINATION OF SAMPLE INDICATES THAT IT WAS FAR FROM SYSTEMATIC POLL TO WHICH WE ARE ACCUSTOMED AND SHOULD BE TREATED WITH CAUTION. HOWEVER, [redacted] ESTIMATE OF VOTER TURNOUT IS SHARED BY OTHERS FAMILIAR WITH CITY SUCH AS [redacted] AND 70PERCENT APPEARS TO BE REASONAB FIGURE.

2. [redacted] BELIEVED GVN WOULD MEET AND BEAT VIET CONG CHALLENGE IN SAIGON/GIA DINH. SEVEN BATTALIONS OF STRATEGIC RESERVE HABE VEEN ASSIGNED TO CAPITAL MILITARY DISTRICT UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS; POLICE HAVE BEEN REINFORCED; AND RF/PF TEMPORARILY INCREASED BY SHORT-TERM RECRUITMENT OF VETERANS. HE PLANS CONDUCT HOUSE-BY-HOUSE SEARCH OF AREAS OF CITY WHERE VIET CONG CADRE KNOWN TO BE OPERATING SOMETIME PRIOR TO ELECTIONS.

GP-4. LODGE.
BT

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/ODC REVIEW COMPLETED
REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 11/2/76
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED